

XLI.—On a new Species of Loncheres from British Guiana. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

I AM indebted to my friend and former colleague Mr. J. J. Quelch, Director of the British-Guiana Museum, Demerara, for the opportunity of examining a small collection of Mammalia from that country, and among them I find two specimens of the following new species of spiny rat.

Loncheres guianæ, sp. n.

Fur thickly spinous, the hairs between the spines scarcely perceptible. Muzzle rich rufous; crown of the head, fore back, flanks, and outer sides of limbs coarsely grizzled black and pale yellow, both hairs and spines slaty grey for four fifths their length, the former with a subterminal band of pale yellow, the latter black-tipped. Spines on posterior back with a narrow orange tip, which gradually broadens and deepens in colour until the rump is a bright rufous. Whiskers long and numerous, black. Chin, chest, belly, and inner sides of limbs pale buff, the line of demarcation from the colour of the sides fairly well defined. Tail murine in character, thinly haired and scaly throughout, the scales large, averaging about eight or nine to the centimetre; the thinly scattered hairs brown above, yellowish beneath.

Measurements of an adult skin:—

Head and body (c.) 190 millim.; tail 167; hind foot 36.2; ear (contracted) 5.5.

Skull, basal length (c.) 47, greatest breadth 26; nasals, length 15.5, interorbital breadth 13; diastema 11.8; length of upper molar series 11.2.

This species is readily distinguishable by its peculiar coloration from all the known species of *Loncheres* with one exception. This is "*Isothrix*" *pagurus*, Wagn.*, from Borba, Brazil, which has much the same coloration, but differs from *L. guianæ* by having wholly soft fur. That this absence of spines in *L. pagurus* is not due to youth is shown not only by the fact that the type specimen is slightly larger than that of *L. guianæ*, but also by the marked spininess of Mr. Quelch's second specimen, which is only about two-thirds grown. Nor is the difference a seasonal one, since the type of *L. pagurus* was captured in July and the smaller Demeraran specimen in June. The larger specimen is unfortunately not dated.

* Arch. f. Nat. 1845, p. 146; Abh. Ak. Münch v. p. 288 (1847).